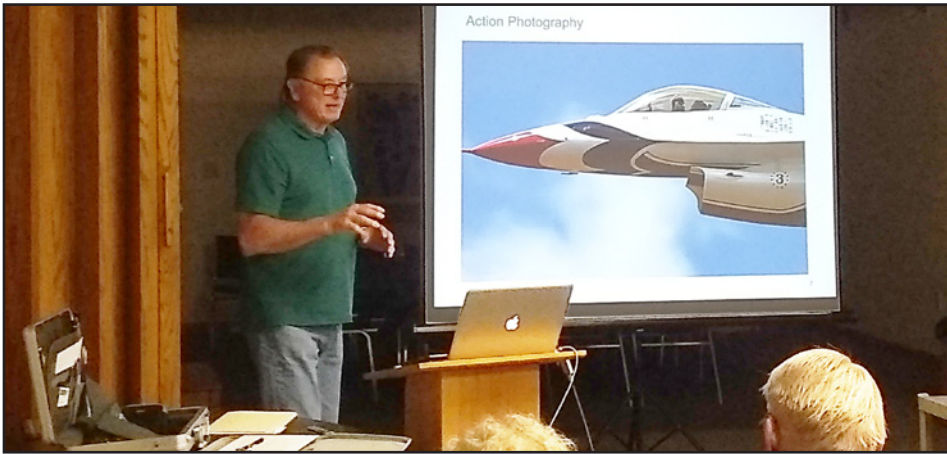


Action photography, May 13



Above: Warren Roh inspired a group of interested photographers with his stunning action photography works in a Palmer Divide Photographers action photography class May 13 that covered not only Roh's long career as an action photographer but also many aspects of the equipment, tips, and techniques he has used over the years. Those included elaborate setups to simple ones, most all using a tripod and many with a laser shutter setup. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*

County Master Plan, May 14



Above: Tri-Lakes residents turned out May 14 to voice their opinions on El Paso County's master plan, which the county will be updating over the next two years. It is holding public forums in partnership with Houseal Lavigne Associates (HLA) to collect community input. The master plan update identifies land use and development issues and will be combined with recently approved water and transportation master plans. (See related article at <https://www.ocn.me/v19n4.htm#ebocc>.) Pictured from left are Carly Peterson (blond hair), Brandon Nolin of HLA, county Planning Department Deputy Director Mark Gebhart, and Sean Tapia of HLA. During this meeting, residents identified the following three development concerns: overdevelopment, the apparent lack of concern for the environment, and transportation. Several there said if administrative decisions were more transparent, they might not have these worries about local governments. Take the associated online survey at planningdevelopment.elpasoco.com. *Photo by Allison Robenstein.*

Hear It Here, May 17



Left: Gleneagle Sertoma has partnered with Hearing Loss Association of America—Colorado Springs Chapter for the past three years to host HEAR It HERE during May, Better Hearing and Speech Month. This expo brings together hearing assistance device providers, audiologists, and other services for the hearing impaired at one venue for a day of sharing. On May 17, nearly 80 persons shared the opportunity to learn how the newest devices work and how to contact needed services. Attendees could receive hearing screenings, have ear wax removed and learn more during short presentations by professionals in their respective fields. Audiologist of The Hearing Clinic and a member

of Gleneagle Sertoma, Chynna Frana shares the latest innovations in hearing assistive devices. *Photo courtesy of Gleneagle Sertoma.*

Wildfire Preparedness, May 25



Above: Palmer Lake firefighter Kyle Stephens (left) taught attendees how to use a fire extinguisher in a fire emergency during the wildfire preparedness event May 25, which included a group of speakers representing the Palmer Lake Fire Department, the El Paso-Teller 911 Authority, the Colorado State Forest Service, the Pikes Peak Office of Emergency Management, and the Coalition for the Upper South Platte. *Photo by Janet Sellers*

Dawson aquifer wells, May 13

Right: General Manager Mark Birkelo of Barnhart Pump Co. shared over 30 years of well-drilling experience with the Friends of Black Forest Preservation Plan (FOBFP) on May 13 at the Black Forest Community Club. His professional drilling data and experience say that the Dawson aquifer used by most private wells in the Palmer Divide/Black Forest area is staying at steady levels and sometimes increasing. This disputes the Colorado Division of Water Resources statements about dropping levels in that particular aquifer in the Black Forest area. Individual Dawson wells do vary widely in water productivity based on variations in local geological formations. Birkelo said the Dawson seems to be unaffected by lowering levels in the aquifers below it—the Denver, Arapahoe, and Laramie-Fox Hills—since there's a confining layer between them. The lower levels in the Denver aquifer may be related to heavy pumping by municipalities such as Castle Rock and Highlands Ranch. He said residents should always call in professionals if they see any change in well water or system performance. For future FOBFP speakers and opportunities, see www.fobfpp.org. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*



Art Hop, May 16

Right: Featured artist Joe Beavers, right, and gallery artist Mary J. Welty, left, smile as they enjoy the first monthly Art Hop of the season, a sunny May 16 afternoon in Historic Monument. Fine art and decor were on view for sale all over town with music and refreshments adding to the festive, upbeat event. Art Hop will continue every third Thursday through September. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*



Meadow Grass Festival, May 25



Above and Below: The 11th annual Meadow Grass Music Festival lineup, filled with musicians, vendors, workshops, yoga, fun for kids, and guided tours of the historic Ute culturally modified trees, entertained a lively crowd enjoying the sunny weekend May 24-26 amid the historic forested grounds of La Foret Conference and Retreat Center. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*

